



United States Coast Guard

Activities Europe



USAG Benelux-Schinnen
Borgerweg 10
6365CW Schinnen
The Netherlands

Phone: 31(0) 46-443-7649
Fax: 31 (0) 46-443-7286
acteurinspections@uscg.mil
acteurinvestigations@uscg.mil

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Securing Cutting Equipment While Operating in High Risk Waters

An investigation into a recent pirate attack on a U.S. vessel operating in high risk waters off the coast of West Africa discovered the pirates employed the vessel's own grinding tools to cut into and compromise a steel water tight door (WTD) of the crew refuge area. This compromise enabled intruders to gain access to the space and led to the kidnapping of two crewmembers.

Maritime Security (MARSEC) Directive 104-6 (Rev.6) provides general security related guidelines for U.S. vessels operating in High Risk Waters (HRW) where acts of terrorism, piracy, and armed robbery against ships are prevalent.

The purpose of this MSIB is to remind vessel owners and crew members to review the current MARSEC Directive and the vessel's approved Vessel Security Plan to identify and ensure any equipment that could be used to access a space is properly secured.

Strict adherence to this and other guidelines contained within the MARSEC Directive and Vessel Security Plans provides a layer of security that better protects the crew, the vessel, and cargo from similar attacks in the future.

For additional information or clarification regarding this Marine Safety Information Bulletin please contact LCDR Christopher Brunclik Christopher.D.Brunclik@uscg.mil or 0031 (0) 46 443 7212 or the above address.

James B. Robertson
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection